Drought Status and Outlook

Latest Drought Information Statement

January 13, 2022

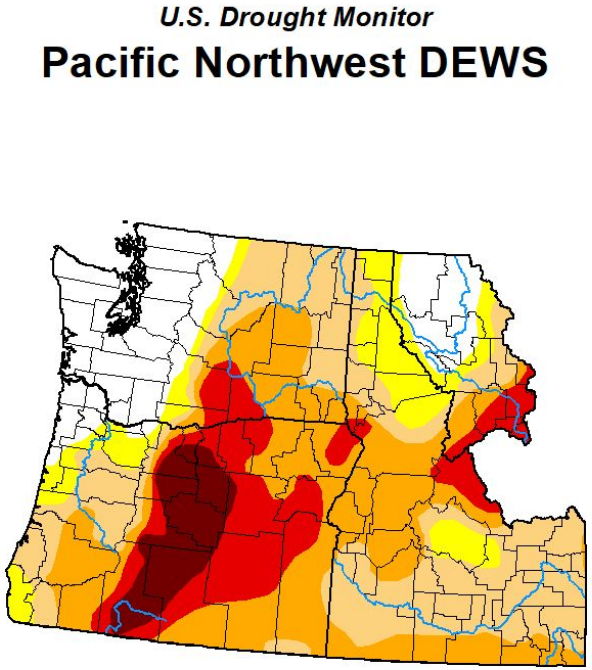
National Weather Service Spokane

Severe and Extreme Drought for the Inland NW

Drought conditions continue to show improvements in the last month across the Inland Northwest, especially extreme eastern Washington and the Idaho Panhandle.

- Only pockets of extreme (D3) drought remain in the lower Columbia Basin and the Camas Prairie of Idaho
- Areas of moderate (D2) drought span from the upper Columbia Basin to the Lewiston Clarkston Valley

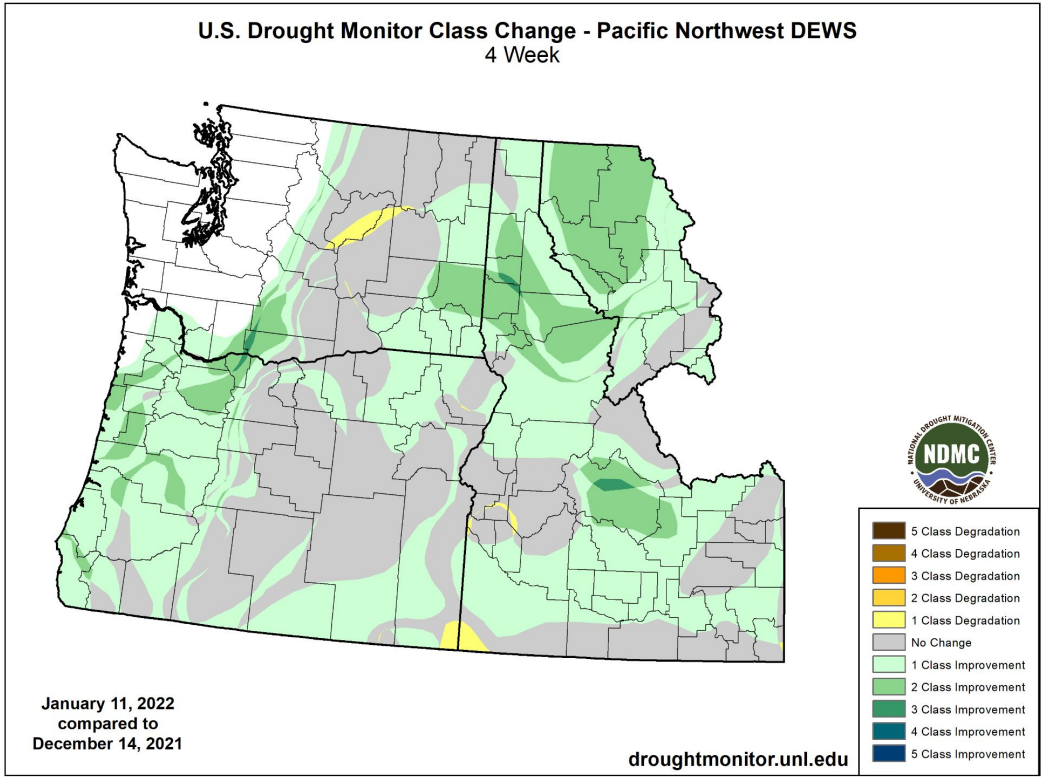
https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/



One Month Drought Change

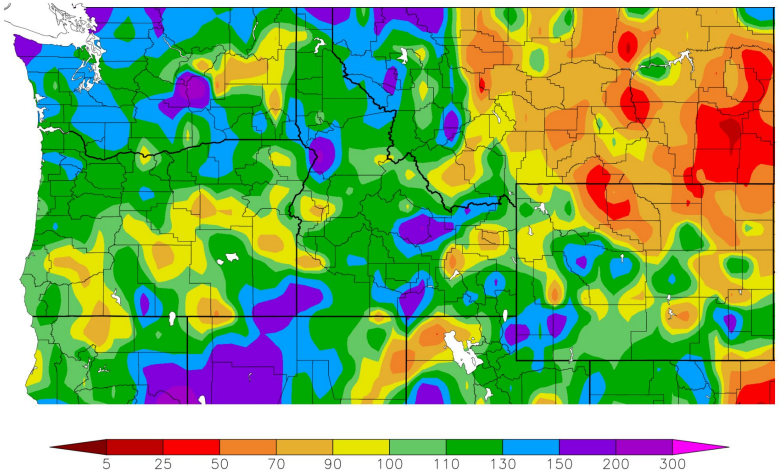
Above normal precipitation last fall increased soil moisture and streamflows which helped decrease the drought severity across the Inland NW. The recent rounds of winter snow and colder temperatures aided in building the mountain snowpack.

https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Maps/ChangeMaps.aspx



Last 90 Days

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
10/15/2021 – 1/12/2022

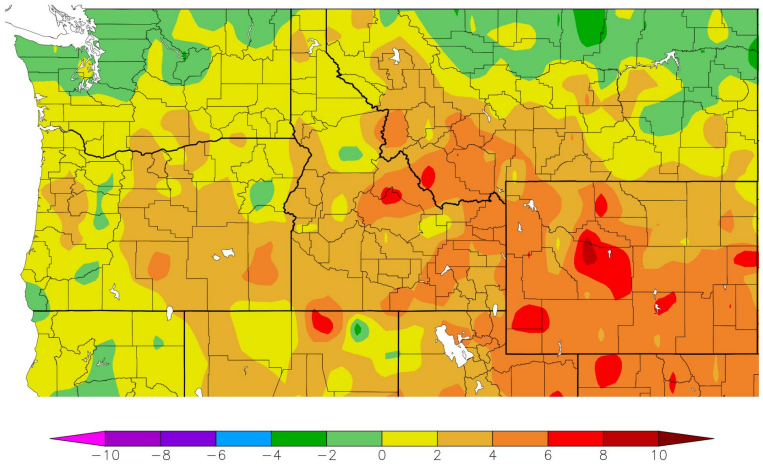


Generated 1/13/2022 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Near to above normal precipitation was found across much of the Inland Northwest. The wetter areas were near the Cascades, northern mountains and Idaho Panhandle.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
10/15/2021 – 1/12/2022



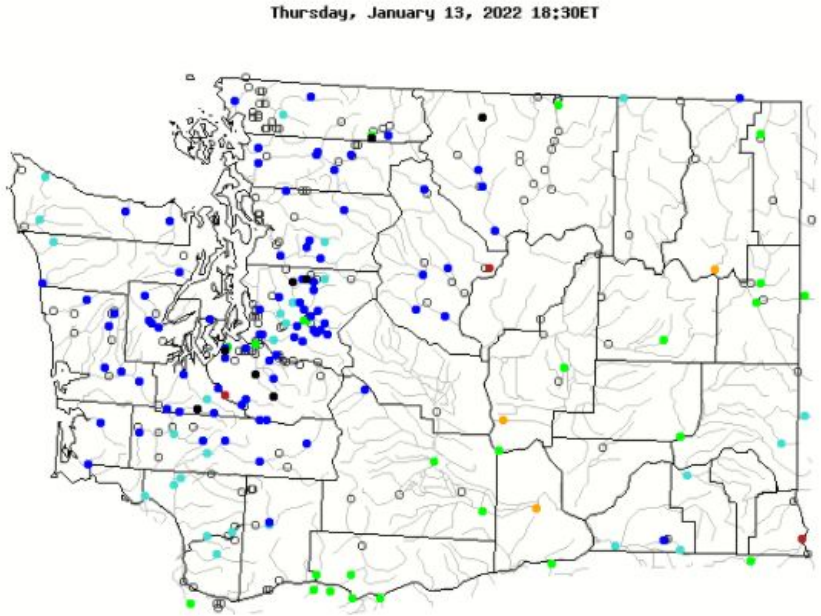
Generated 1/13/2022 at HPRCC using provisional data.

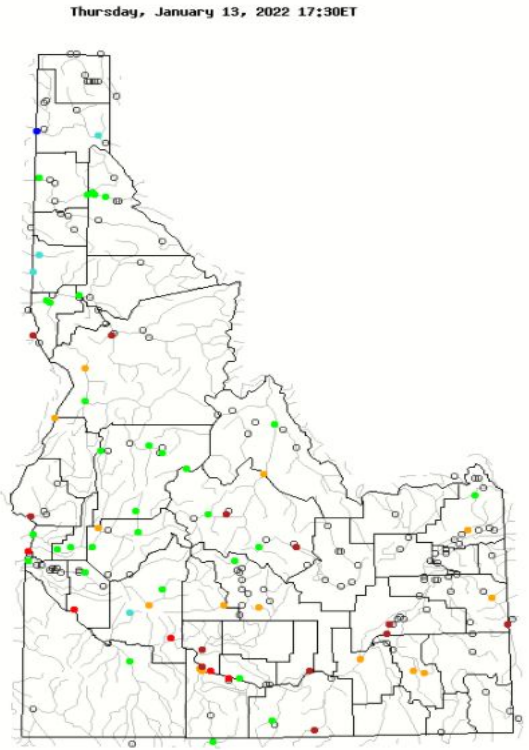
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Temperatures have been running near to above normal region-wide, despite the cold snap in late December and early January.

https://hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps

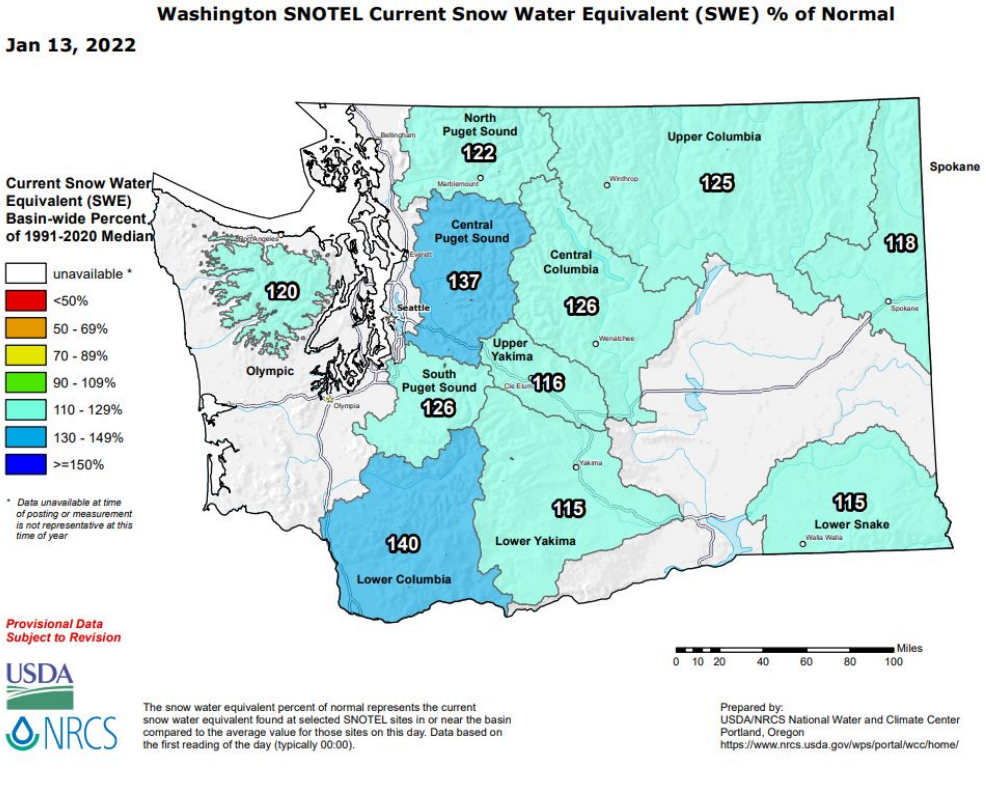
Drought Impacts - Streamflows

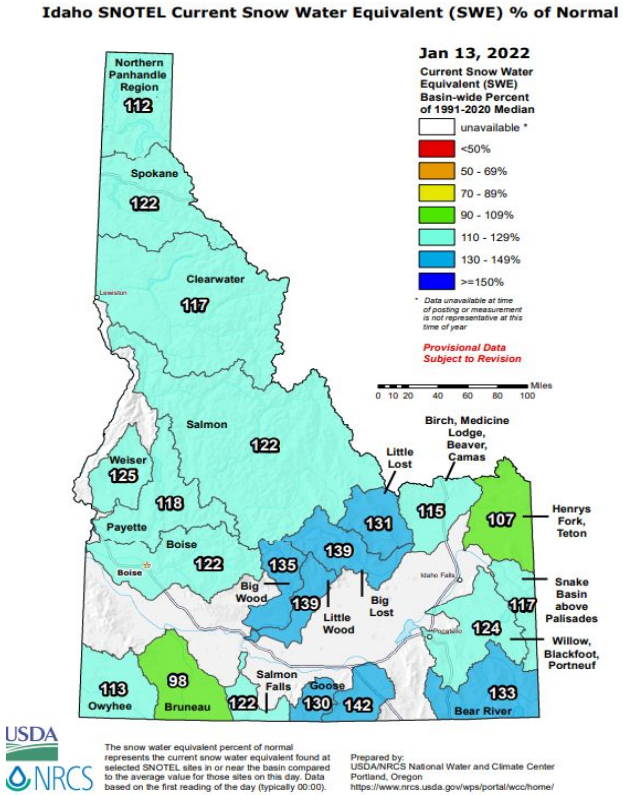




Stream flows are near to above normal levels across the Inland NW after record low flows last summer. Above normal flows remain over the Cascades basins of north central Washington, while slightly below normal flows are found in parts of the lower Snake river basin.https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/

Drought Impacts - Mountain Snowpack



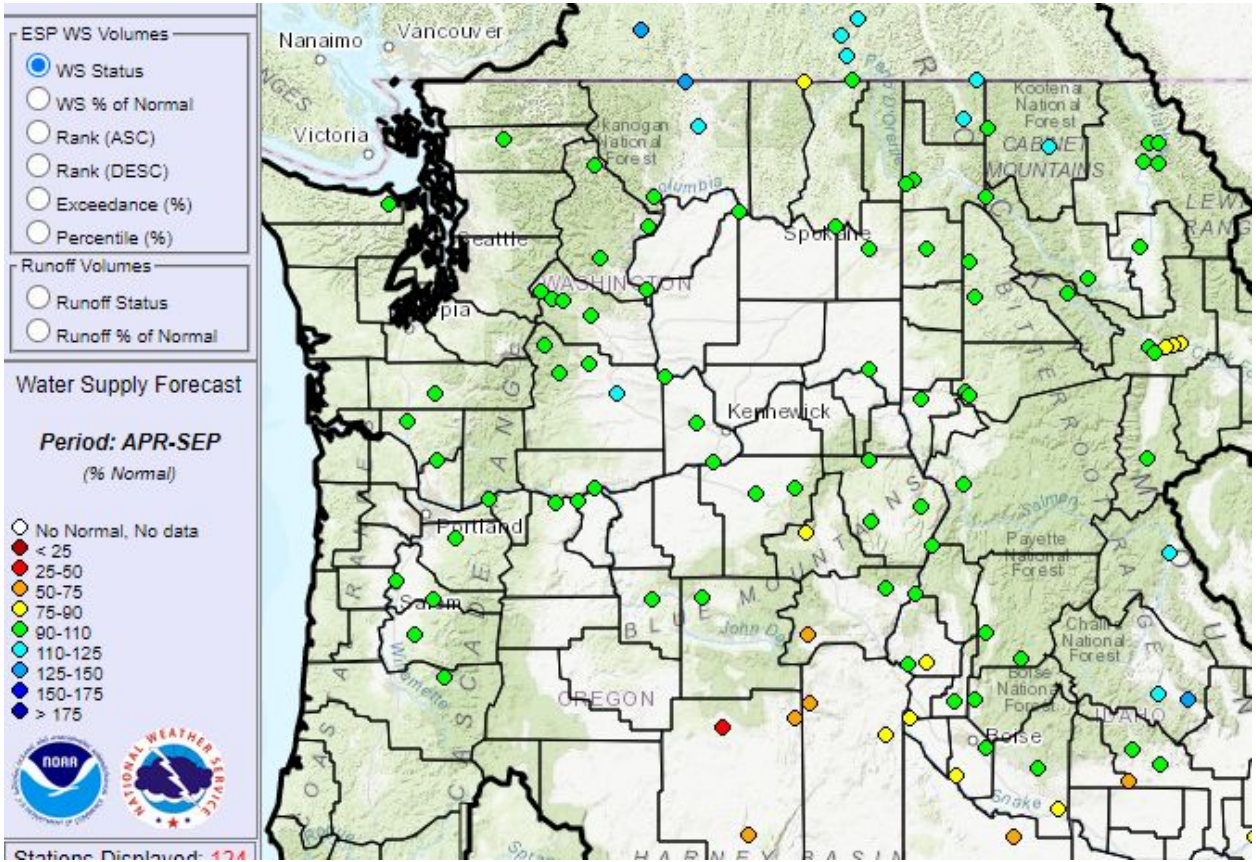


Mountain snowpack had an early start across the northern Cascades last fall. Colder temperatures in December helped the snowpack build elsewhere. Currently snow water equivalent across the mountains of the Inland NW ranges 110% to 125% of normal. https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/

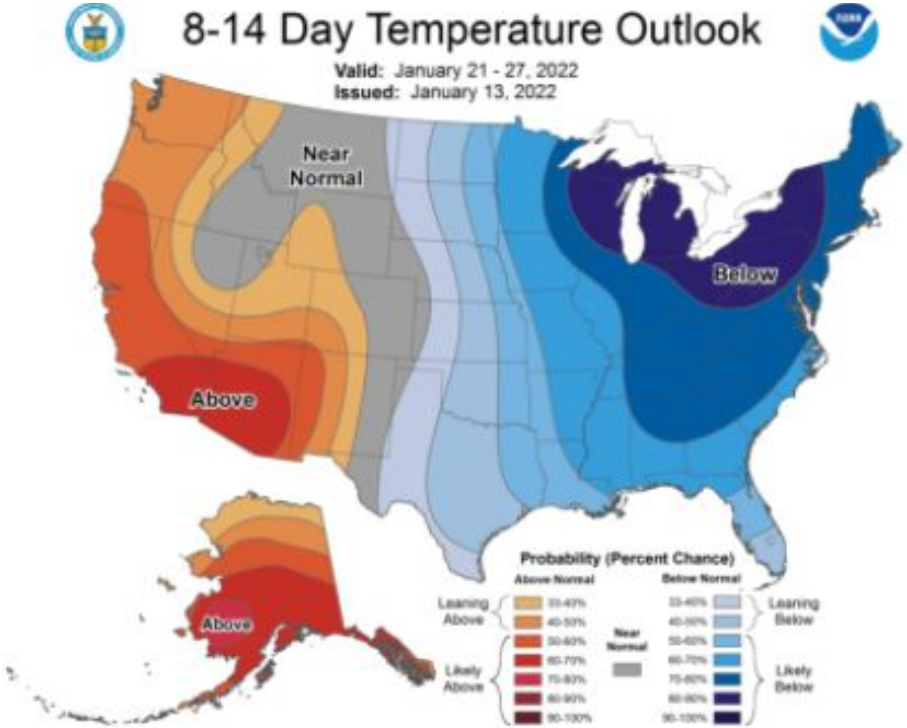
NWRFC Water Supply Forecast

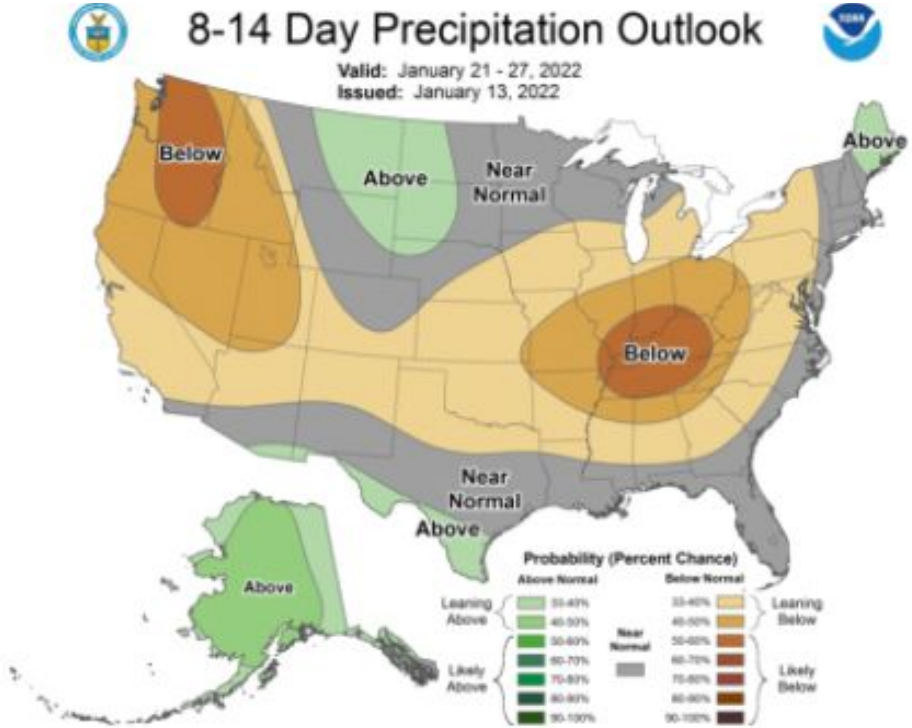
October 1st marked a new Water Year.The NW River Forecast Center water supply forecasts look near to slightly above normal for 2022 across the region.

https://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/rfc/



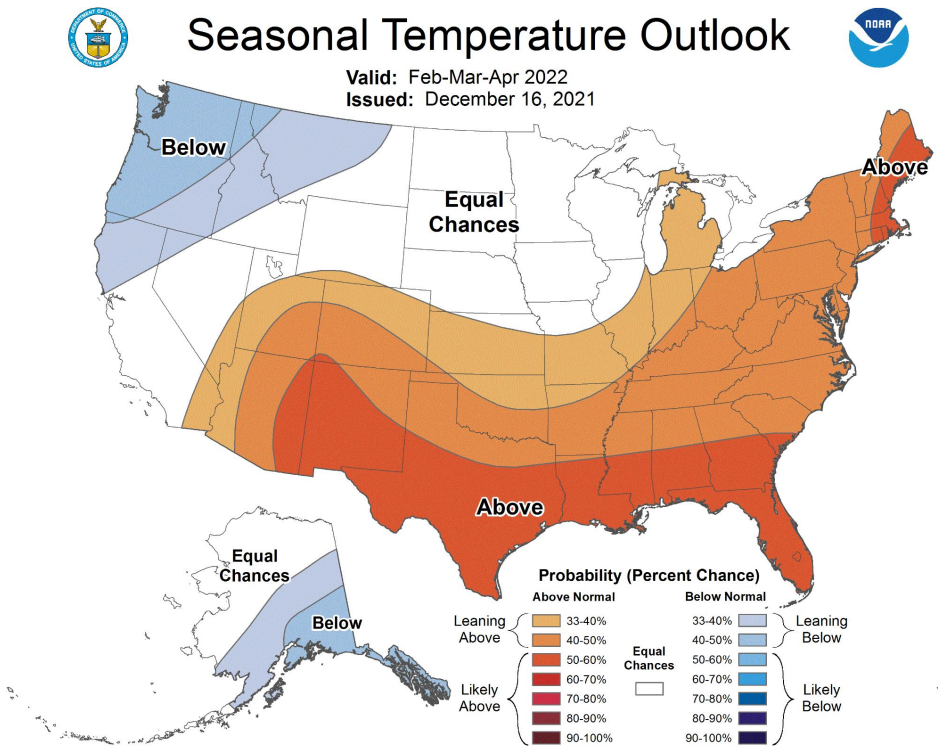
CPC One Month Outlook ~ Rest of January

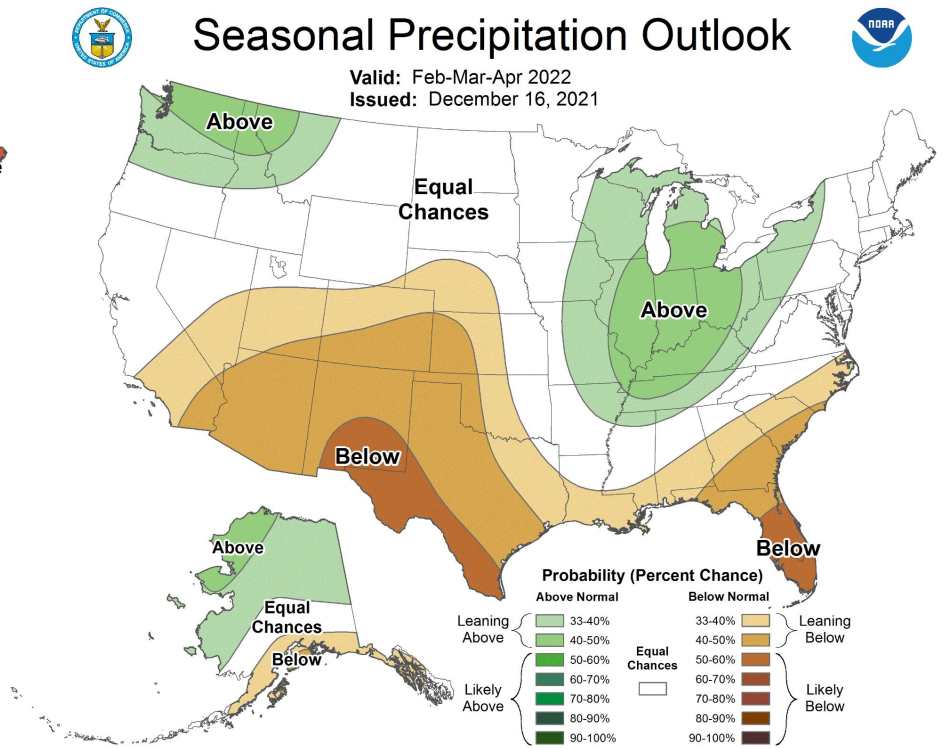




After a cold and snowy start to January, the Climate Prediction Center`s outlook for the second half of January leans toward a slightly milder and drier period. https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

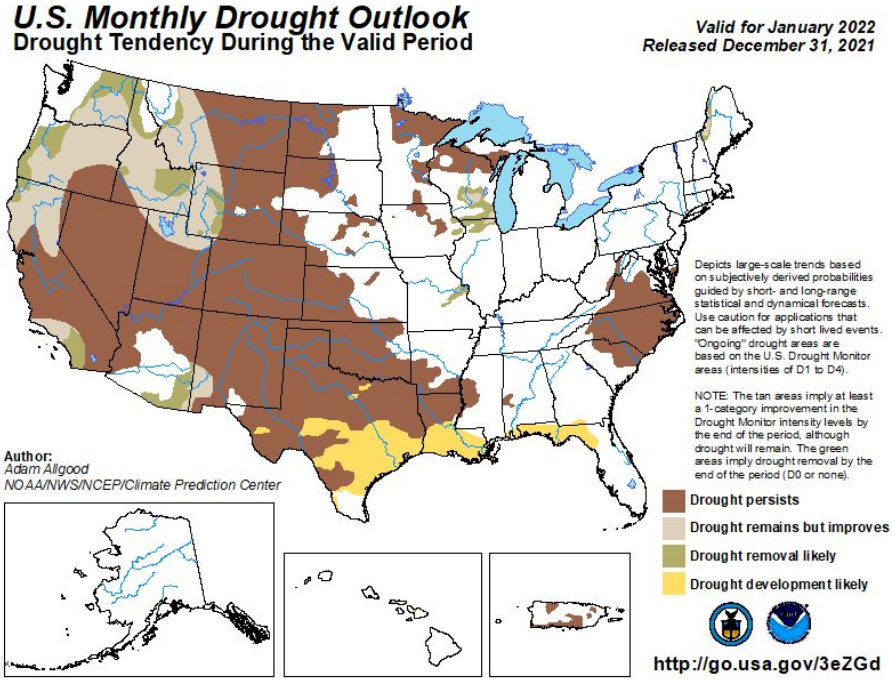
CPC Three Month Outlook ~ February through April

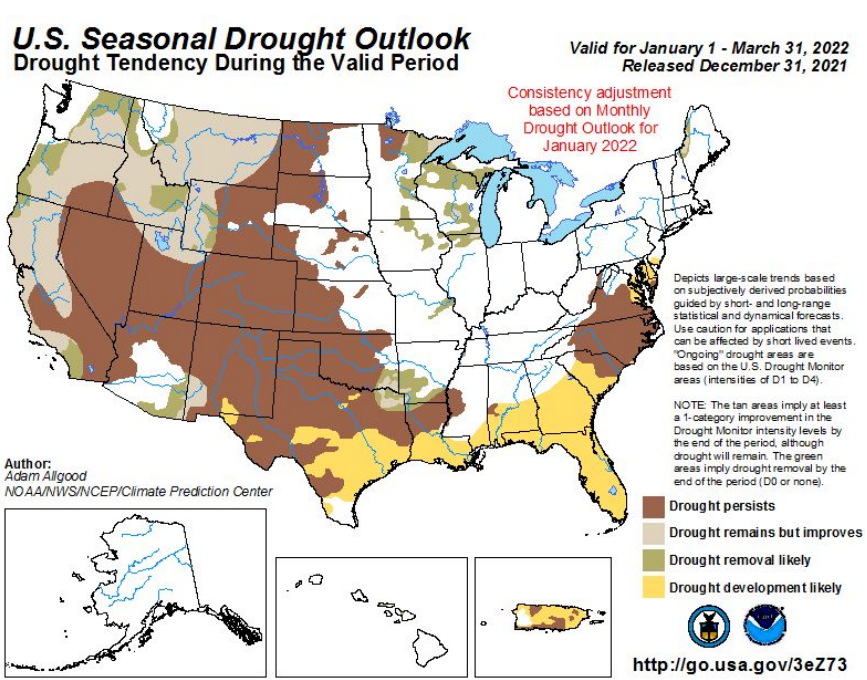




The three month outlook favors older and wetter than normal conditions for the February through April.
https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

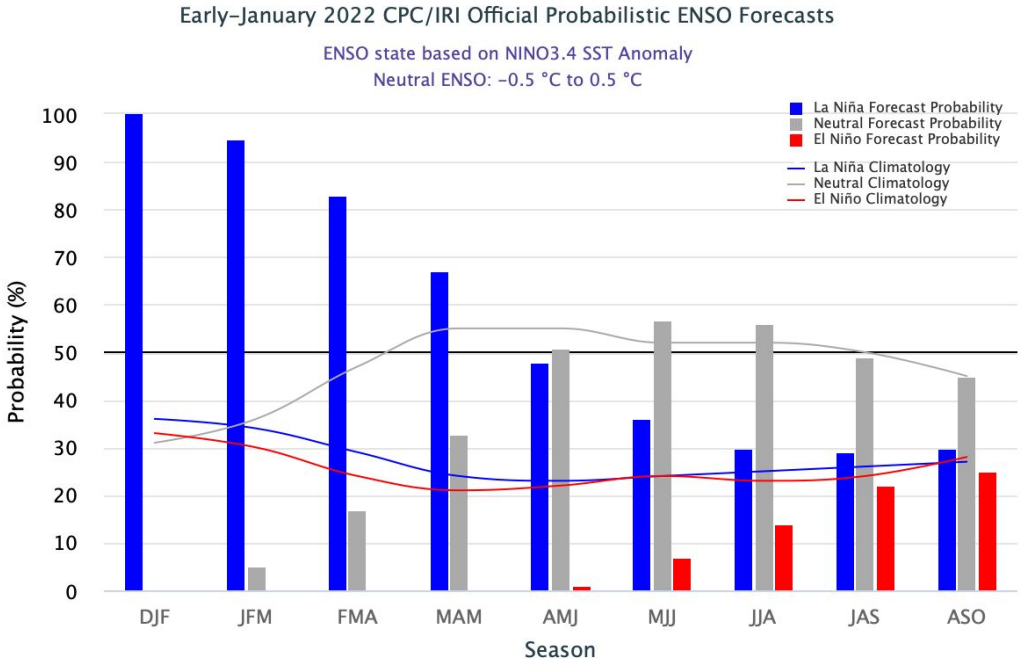
Monthly and Seasonal Drought Outlook

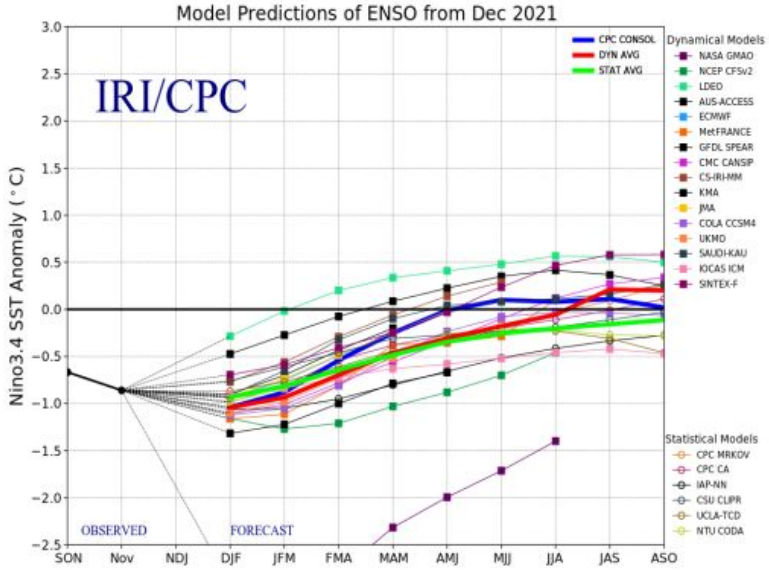




The Monthly and Seasonal Drought Outlooks both suggest drought conditions will remain but show some improvements. There is a potential for drought removal across parts of north central and northeast Washington along with parts of the Idaho Panhandle in the coming months. https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/

La Nina Outlook





A La Nina Advisory remains in effect for this winter season. https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/

Drought Summary

- Slow improvements continue across the Inland NW with shrinking of the areas of Extreme (D3) Drought and Severe (D2) Drought across the Inland NW.

- Mountain snowpack is above normal region-wide. Stream flows are near to above normal.

- After a cold and snowy start to January, a break in the active weather is anticipated. The Seasonal Outlook leans toward below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation for February through April 2022, and favors improving drought conditions across the region in the months to come.

- Please report any drought conditions or impacts to NWS Spokane at nws.spokane@noaa.gov or through the National Drought Mitigation Center at https://droughtimpacts.unl.edu/

Drought Related Web Sites

U.S. Drought Portal: www.drought.gov

US Drought Monitor: www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Western Region Climate Center: /www.wrcc.dri.edu

Climate Prediction Center: www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

National Interagency Coordination Center: www.nifc.gov

USGS Streamflows: www.waterwatch.usgs.gov

NWS Water Supply Forecasts: www.nwrfc.noaa.gov

US Army Corps of Engineers: www.usace.army.mil

NRCS Water Supply Forecasts: www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov

Idaho Department of Water Resources: www.idwr.idaho.gov

Idaho Climate Office: www.uidaho.edu/extension/climate-services

Washington Department of Ecology: www.ecology.wa.gov

Washington Climate Office: www.climate.washington.edu

NWS Spokane: www.weather.gov/Spokane